

PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

Section 1. General administrative information

Title of project Restore the Salmon River, in the Challis, Idaho area, to a healthy condition through the efforts of a collaborative, locally-based, watershed group.	
BPA project number	9901900
Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy)	11/20/99
Multiple actions? (indicate Yes or No)	Yes
Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding Custer County Watershed Group	
Business acronym (if appropriate)	
Proposal contact person or principal investigator:	
Name Mailing address City, ST Zip Phone Fax Email address	Mark Olson Box 305 Challis, Idaho 83226 208-879-4428 208-879-4428
NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses 7.6A, 7.6B, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7A, 7.8A	
FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses Listed as critical habitat for chinook, steelhead, bull trout, wolves, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and ute ladies'-tresses	
Other planning document references Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan Task No.s 1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d	
Short description Restore river corridor to a healthy condition by reestablishing riparian vegetation and allowing the floodplain to become functional. Social and political factors are being addressed through a county-based watershed group.	
Target species Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, westslope cutthroat, rainbow trout	

Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

Subbasin Upper Salmon River Basin

Evaluation Process Sort

CBFWA caucus		CBFWA eval. Process		ISRP project type	
X one or more caucus		If your project fits either of these processes, X one or both		X one or more categories	
X	Anadromous fish	X	Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation)	X	Watershed councils/model watersheds

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				X	
				X	
X	Resident Fish	X	Watershed project eval.		Information dissemination
X	Wildlife				Operation & maintenance
					New construction
					Research & monitoring
					Implementation & mgmt
					Wildlife habitat acquisitions

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships. List umbrella project first.

Project #	Project title/description

Other dependent or critically-related projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9202603	Idaho Model Watershed Program	

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Past accomplishments

Year	Accomplishment	Met biological objectives?
1998	Initiate Project after budget confirmation fall 98	

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Restore natural functioning river corridor along a 12 mile reach of the Salmon River	a	Develop plans and agreements with individual landowners to reestablish and maintain a healthy vegetative community in the riparian area.
1		b	Remove or lower dikes to allow floods to access the floodplain
		c	Limited use of barbs and large rock to control severe bank erosion

Objective schedules and costs

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Obj #	Start date mm/yyyy	End date mm/yyyy	Measureable biological objective(s)	Milestone	FY2000 Cost %
1	10/1998	09/2003	Amount of floodplain restored, amount of riparian habitat protected, length of banks stabilized.	Measurements completed in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003	100%
				Total	\$50,000

Schedule constraints NA
Completion date 2003

Section 5. Budget

FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):	\$100,000
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FY2000 budget by line item

Item	Note	% of total	FY2000 (\$)
Personnel			
Fringe benefits			
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		95%	\$47,500
Operations & maintenance			
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)			
NEPA costs			
Construction-related support			
PIT tags	# of tags:		
Travel			
Indirect costs		5%	\$2,500
Subcontractor			
Other			
TOTAL BPA REQUESTED BUDGET			\$50,000

Cost sharing

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount (\$)
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Personnel		\$24,400
Idaho Fish and Game	Personnel		\$18,270
Thompson Creek Mine	Aerial Photos and Construction		\$11,400
Custer County	Meeting Coordination		\$4,500
Private Landowners (32)	Land set-aside and fence		\$750,000

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	maintenance		
Forest Service	Personnel		\$6,400
Bureau of Land Management	Personnel		\$3,200
National Marine Fisheries Service	Personnel		\$2,000
US Army Corp of Engineers	River Modelling, Planning, and Construction		\$1,250,000
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Personnel		\$2,000
Total project cost (including BPA portion)			\$2,322,170

Outyear costs

	FY2001	FY02	FY03	FY04
Total budget	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	

Section 6. References

Watershed?	Reference
	Northwest Power Planning Council. 1994. Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, Oregon.
	U.S. Government, Federal Register. (57 FR 14653) Listing of Snake River fall chinook and Salmon River spring/summer chinook as threatened. April 22, 1992. Washington, D.C., 57:14653.
	_____. (59 FR 42529). Reclassification of Snake River fall chinook and Salmon River spring/summer chinook as endangered. August 18, 1994. Washington, D.C., 59:42529.
	U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In Review. Final Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon.

PART II - NARRATIVE

Section 7. Abstract

Twelve miles of the Salmon River have been straightened, diked, and show the effects of poor vegetation management. The result is a continuing loss of private land and degrading fisheries habitat. To correct the problem an overview plan was developed by Forest Service hydrologists and soil scientists working with NRCS and IDFG biologists to take a wholistic approach for restoring the entire river reach.

The plan basically calls for restoring a healthy riparian corridor along the river and restoring the natural floodplain. A county watershed group was formed with representation from all interested parties. This is a collaborative effort, with cost share funding from NRCS, IDFG, Thompson Creek Mining Co., USFWS, USFS, BLM, BOR, US Army Corp of Engineers, NMFS, and possibly grants from private organizations. Funding will be administered by the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District. Private landowners will cost-share their portion by reserving land within the corridor, maintenance of fences, vegetation, and construction works. The project will benefit several listed species of fish and wildlife.

Section 8. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background

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Restore the Salmon River, in the Challis, Idaho area, to a healthy condition through the efforts of a collaborative, locally-based, watershed group.

This 12 mile section of the Salmon River is located in central Idaho, near the town of Challis. The river upstream of this area is naturally confined within canyon. Near Challis the river enters an agricultural valley, where straightening, diking, and vegetation management have contributed to an increasingly unstable river system. Many of the natural features that would dissipate energy of floodwaters are no longer present. Severe river bank erosion is occurring in this area. Fisheries habitat is declining due to loss of pools and an unstable bedload composed primarily of large cobble. Salmon and steelhead spawning no longer occurs in this reach, although historically the area was used (IDFG 1966-1979). Anadromous and resident fish stocks still use this area as a migration corridor and for rearing. Spring/summer chinook were listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened on April 22, 1992 (57 FR 42529), and the Salmon River is classified as critical habitat (57 FR 14653).

After several meeting with concerned landowners, agencies, and congressional staff, it was decided the best approach was to form a watershed group that could develop a plan for restoring the entire river section, rather than the past attempts of treating one problem at a time. Custer County developed a Memorandum of Agreement, that designates a watershed group to coordinate the river restoration planning. The Forest Service contributed two hydrologists/soil scientists to draft an overview plan (Machado and Gallogly, draft 1997) for the entire river section. The watershed group will now coordinate with individual landowners on specific site plans for their property.

In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife program goals (NPPC 1994), this project will protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat conditions in and along the Salmon River. Using a collaborative watershed process involving federal, tribal, state, county, and private landowners, this project will provide for cooperative habitat protection, primarily on private lands. However this project will also address inclusive federal lands as called for in the Final Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan (NMFS, in review).

b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs

The Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program recognizes that improvements in habitat quality are needed to increase the productivity of many stocks of chinook salmon (NPPC 1994). This project is similar in nature to Model Watershed Projects being completed in the adjoining East Fork Salmon River and Pahsimeroi River, which are tributaries to the Salmon River above and below this project area (Model Watershed Plan 1994).

Several measures in the Fish and Wildlife Program (NPPC 1994) are being addressed with this project: 7.6A.1 calls for a comprehensive approach, which we intend to use, 7.6A.2 calls for improving the productivity of salmon and steelhead habitat critical to the recovery of weak stocks. Habitat Policies 7.6B.1,2,3,4,5, & 6 are being addressed within the watershed group approach with a proactive, cooperative program, coordinated with state and federal stream alteration permits, over a broader wholistic plan with private landowners to maximize the desired result per dollar spent, with cost-sharing among several agencies and individual landowners all contributing in some way. Educational efforts are being coordinated through the watershed group and the local Soil and Water Conservation District within the community. Coordinated Habitat Planning (7.6C) is being accomplished through an integrated approach across many jurisdictional and ownership boundaries. In this case public and private landowners are acting in concert to restore a healthy river.

c. Relationships to other projects

Model Watershed projects in the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, and East Fork Salmon River, are similar in nature to the work we intend to do on the mainstem Salmon River. Because the Model Watershed Advisory Committee restricts itself to these three sub-basins, it was not feasible to coordinate this project through that program.

Stream Alteration Permits will be required for this project. As stated above all applicable agencies will review and comment on these permits. The entire project reach will be submitted under one permit, with individual landowners still maintaining responsibility for their own activities.

Consultation with NMFS and USFWS will occur on all listed species.

All agencies will be represented on the Custer County Watershed Group and will be included on the Custer County Memorandum of Agreement, which also intends to address other riparian concerns throughout the county.

d. Project history (for ongoing projects)

Initial project funding occurred on October 1, 1998. Development of site specific plans for individual landowners is now in progress.

e. **Proposal objectives.**

Restore a natural functioning river corridor along a 12 mile reach of the Salmon River.

Site specific plans will be developed for each landowner to reestablish and maintain a healthy vegetative community within the riparian corridor. Where dikes exist they will be notched, lowered, or removed as vegetation is reestablished to allow floods to access the floodplain. Actively eroding river banks that may not naturally recover in a reasonable time may be stabilized with barbs or large rock and willows.

f. **Methods**

Site specific habitat restoration plans will be developed by a technical/professional team and coordinated through a stream alteration permitting process with review from county, state, and federal agencies involved in the Custer County Watershed Group. Landowner contracts will be developed between the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District and the individual property owner. Long-term monitoring will be done through the contract agreement.

g. **Facilities and equipment**

Cooperating agencies will provide equipment needed to site specific plan development. All specialized equipment needed for fencing, planting, or rock work will be provided by landowners and private contractors.

h. **Budget**

Costs were projected from the overview plan developed by hydrologists and based on miles of fencing needed, amount of planting, and amount of rock work expected. Estimates were projected from similar Model Watershed Projects in adjoining river basins.

Section 9. Key personnel

This will be a collaborative effort utilizing all the expertise available within the Custer County Watershed Group. Membership includes the following: Mark Olson, NRCS, project coordinator, soil conservationist; Mike Larkin, IDFG, regional fisheries manager; Melodie Baker, Custer County Commissioner; Lenore Barrett, Representative Idaho Legislature; Dale Gooby, NRCS, civil engineer; Carolyn Hubble, Thompson Creek Mining Co., public relations; Karma Bragg, CSWCD, administrative assistant; Barbara Machado, USFS, hydrologist; Karen Gallogly, USFS, soil scientist/hydrologist; Jeff Anderson, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, fisheries biologist; Renee Snyder, BLM, Challis Resource Area Manager; Kate Forester, BLM, fisheries biologist; Bill Alder, landowner; Bill Savage, landowner; Clive Dunfee, landowner; Ray Kagel, US Army Corp of Engineers, environmental resource specialist; Bob Ries, NMFS, fisheries biologist; Mike Donahoo, USFWS, field supervisor; Terry Blau, IDWR, stream protection specialist; plus other professional personnel from local agencies as needed.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

The Custer County Watershed Group will hold public meetings and use local media to keep landowners and interested parties informed of project progress. The Watershed Group will also conduct tours of successful projects as they are completed. Custer SWCD's information and education program will highlight projects through newsletters and displays within the community. Other agencies cooperating with the project will each use their respective I&E sections to inform interested publics of the project benefits and values.

Congratulations!